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# THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.

"EXCELSIOR" IS OUR MOTTO.

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## THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

### Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

The Patron and Gleaner, published at Rich Square, says that in the territory between Roanoke and Chowan rivers, there will not be more than a half crop gathered. It says also that there were larger quantities of fertilizers used in that territory this year than ever before. All this brings about a serious state of affairs for that section with cotton falling and wheat rising.

Our contemporary wisely suggests that the farmers sow clover and small grain which can be gathered early in the spring and give time for some other crop. It urges the sowing of wheat, which we think is wise indeed.

There is now considerable comment on the fact that wheat flour and corn meal are mixed and sold as flour. Some mill people seem to have learned a secret whereby they can mix the two to a certain degree without detection. And those who know about the manipulation are not willing to make known the proportion in which meal and flour may be mixed and escape detection.

Perhaps a large quantity of flour in all the markets has corn meal in it. The Southern farmer can avoid this by raising both his own corn and wheat and having it all ground at home.

Near Emporia, Kansas, on the Santa Fe railroad there was a terrible train wreck last week. Three engines exploded. Two were pulling the Mexico and California express which met the fast mail going east. The accident was caused by an undelivered train order. A dozen persons were killed. Hon. William Jennings Bryan was on a rear Pullman car 400 feet from the engines. He was not at all hurt. Mr. Bryan, said the reporters, was one of the noblest men present in his kind offices to the wounded. He had spoken that day at a county fair at Burlington, and one wounded man in the wreck said to him: "I went to hear you speak to-day; I am now dying and want to shake your hand and say God bless you. If you possibly can, Mr. Bryan, get me a drink of water." Mr. Bryan got the water and performed other kind offices to the sufferers.

The New York Voice, a strong temperance paper, has sent out some questions to chiefs of police over the country as to how much the liquor business has to do with lawlessness and crime. Here are the questions:

"First.—In your opinion, what proportion of the business which comes to your department arises from the use of intoxicating liquor?"  
"Second.—If the saloons of your city were closed, and liquor selling and liquor drinking should cease, is it your opinion that the police expenses of your city would be reduced? If so, how much would they be reduced?"

From the 255 replies that were received, it was learned that 63 per cent. of the crime in the cities comes from the saloon. Here are the reports from North Carolina: From Charlotte the answer was that 66 2/3 per cent. of the police business came from the saloon power; from New Berne, 50 per cent.; from Raleigh 50; from Winston 80; from Salisbury 75; from Henderson and Concord, where there were no saloons, only 10 per cent.

These figures, if true, and we see no reason why we should doubt them, show us what a curse is the liquor traffic in the cities and towns, and it is certainly correspondingly great in the country. The wonder is that the good people of the land do not suppress all other differences until they can get rid of this monster evil and then turn attention to improvements that would mean something. Take all the liquor curse from this land and there would be fewer grumblers and many a place now little better than a den would be a fairly comfortable home.

Whiskers that are prematurely gray or faded should be colored to prevent the look of age, and Buckingham's Dye excels all others in coloring brown or black.

## THE SCHOOL-ROOM.

### OUR TEACHERS' WORK.

#### A NATION'S FUTURE.

#### Some Rambling Thoughts.

BY "NEMO."

(Copyrighted by Dawe & Tabor.)

TO TEACHERS AND PURPOSEFUL PEOPLE.—That faint little tap on your desk for "attention" at the first session this term, will, to some of you, sound as ominous as the tolling of a death-knell. It will conjure up the pleasures of the weeks of rest, and then they will all vanish under a lurid cloud out of whose gray body will peep visions of children who insist on being stupid when the superintendent appears, or who are triumphantly mischievous when your back is turned and strangely angelic when you wheel round to detect them. Really, there is little wonder if your heart sinks within you, as you remember that to keep up the standard of the school you will need to be alert, not once a week, but every hour of every day. I can quite understand a feeling akin to nausea, when the familiar backs of the old familiar books tell you that, this year as last, you will have to go over the self-same simple lessons to a new set of simple listeners. Then, if you are a woman a little feeling of angry protest will arise; for you know full well that the average man of your town, however free he feels to point out your defects, would prefer a week of the hardest toil to one day of attempting the control of twenty of your sprites; and, if you are a male teacher, criticised for your severe discipline, you need no telling that no mother out of a captious ten would be able to govern such a heaped-together family except by free and indiscriminate slappings.

Altogether you feel a little gloomy as the duties begin to burden your shoulders again.

Let no man despise you for good reason; glorify your office; try to rise to the demands of the age; work for a twentieth century to dawn on a generation of right-thinking children; having done all, gulp down that clamorous cry for praise, and be content to have treated as a conscious guardian of untold treasures. The reward is ever from within.

## COAX THE COTTON.

If they want the good times  
In meadow an' in street,  
Jest let 'em coax the cotton  
To a merry waltz with wheat,  
An' all will be forgotten.  
An' times be hard ter beat;  
So, play a tune fer cotton  
In a ripplin' round with wheat!  
F. L. STANTON.

## Avoid Trifling Disputes.

A woman whose goodness and tenderness make her loved by all who know her once said to an impatient girl friend:

"My dear, learn to allow others to be mistaken. It is a difficult lesson to acquire, but it is one that will make you, and all who come in contact with you, happier."

This wise advice often occurs to me while listening to discussions and heated arguments upon utterly unimportant matters. Suppose John says he left home this morning for his office at 8:30, and Mary knows that the hands of the clock pointed to 8:45, as he closed the front door behind him. Why should she tell him of his mistake? Nobody likes to be told that he is wrong, and few of us will believe it ourselves when we are told of it. When there is no principle involved, it is wiser, gentler and kinder to let a trifling error pass unnoticed. If the friend has bought the material for a portiere, and has had the curtain made by a seamstress, under the fond conviction that she has saved money by so doing, why tell her that she could have bought a pair of ready-made portieres for what she paid for the material and making of one? It will only lessen her enjoyment in the property and do neither her nor you any good. When a mistake is made and past changing, let it alone. It is a great undertaking to try to right the world, and those whose temerity permits them to attempt the task should be careful that the so-called righting is not in itself a mistake.—Exchange.

One advantage of taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla to purify the blood is that you need not infringe upon your hours of labor nor deny yourself any food that agrees with you. In a word, you are not compelled to starve or loaf, while taking it. These are recommendations worth considering.

## ABOUT LABOR.

### THE LABORER IS WORTHY.

#### Honest Toil Commended.

Tarboro Southerner.

In a paper which ought to have known better and which should have no place in our civilization till it learns better, there appeared recently the following piece of rubbish:

"Labor is a penalty, imposed by crime or some violation of law, divine or human. \* \* \* It degrades, because those who labor, in the sense of hard work with the hands, are ranked in the social scale as the lowest class. \* \* \* Labor is for the slave; and the South was right in seeking to dedicate a separate and inferior race to work unfit for free men."

The dignity of labor is an expression used for a variety of purposes and about which there clusters a good deal of nonsense. The man who works with his hands is not, on that account, any better or worse than the man who employs him and works mainly with his head. We are all of us, in large part, creatures of circumstance, fitted to our several stations by an ordering of events which we cannot always or often control. If every man could start in life on even terms with every other man in the struggle for wealth and privilege there might be some ground to assume a natural superiority on the part of those who succeed and a corresponding inferiority on the part of those who become hewers of wood and drawers of water. But such a condition does not and cannot exist, and we must take things as we find them, making ourselves contented or unhappy according to our several dispositions. Each man has, also, his own limitations within which he can move freely, and, if he pleases, contentedly. If he be one who labors with his hands he must continue to so work if he fail to show a capacity and disposition to do what are called better things. But he is not thereby degraded. He is merely working out his part in the universal plan and if he makes himself miserable on account of it he but adds to what he deems his misfortune. Good and bad fortune are mere relative terms and apply only as we fix our standards. The fortunate and happy man is he who accommodates himself to conditions as he finds them, doing the best he can with what he has. He will reach his level in society according to his capacity and conduct; and by society we do not mean that artificial creation which tilts its nose at honest toil and worships only money, but the great body of God-fearing men and women who, whether they labor with hand or head, make up the bulk of our population.

## Brookline Public Bath.

The Altruist.

Brookline, Mass., furnishes a very useful model for the establishment of public baths, of which we stand greatly in need, and toward the establishment of which there is just now a strong movement.

At the annual town meeting of 1895 the subject was referred to a select committee, whose report led to an appropriation of \$15,000, which was afterward raised to \$40,000.

At a town meeting held December, 1896, an unpaid committee of nine was appointed for the care and management of the public bath, when completed. Under these auspices, after careful investigation and comparison with similar institutions at home and abroad, a handsome T-shaped building was erected and opened New Year's day, 1897.

It contains a natatorium, 80 x 26, with an average depth of four and one-half feet, with dressing-rooms, running track, rain baths, and most perfect fittings.

There are also other rain baths, foot baths, an instruction tank (22 x 10), and a ventilating passageway, which is one of the latest and most important improvements. The water is kept at an even temperature by a pulsometer and absolutely pure by constant change and a surface current.

The appreciation of the bath is evinced by an average weekly attendance during the first six weeks of 782.

The charge at present varies from five cents to twenty-five cents (for non-residents). Free admission was tried, but abandoned on account of its abuse. The estimated expense for coming year is \$5,000 above receipts.

## NO CURE—NO PAY

That is the way all druggists sell GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC for Chills, Fever and all forms of Malaria. It is simply Iron and Quinine in a tasteless form. Children love it. Adults prefer it to bitter nauseating tonics. Price, 50c. 6 17 ly.



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FOR 1897

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C. C. COOPER,

9 9 3m ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

## How to Cheer Him up.

Winston Sentinel.

If any of your acquaintances have a cold attended by a cough, tell him his cough sounds just like Jim Higgins who lay down upon the grass when he was in a perspiration and took consumption from it, and died after a lingering illness of eighteen months. This will be very consoling to the man with the cold.

If a person has a fever tell him the interesting tale of how your mother-in-law's step sister lay upon her back sixteen weeks with typhoid fever, and immediately after that she took meningitis and never saw the light of day again, but was blind all the rest of her life. Add that both typhoid fever and meningitis seem particularly prevalent this season.

Perhaps another acquaintance of yours may be in financial difficulties. Read to him all the new stories of men who are committing suicide because of business troubles. This is calculated to make him feel cheerful in his mind. Tell him how many men you have known made assignments and never regained their commercial standing. If any of them died paupers do not omit this from the list. These little facts will give him courage to face the world and drive through his difficulties and get upon his feet again.

If your neighbor is uneasy about the wild behavior of any of his children, inform him how a respectable family of your acquaintance had a son who is now serving a term in the penitentiary, and that the daughter of another friend ran away and joined the salvation army.

In general whatever may be your friend's particular trouble for the time being, pour out to him in every detail the woeful stories of people you have known who were similarly situated. Paint each case as black as you can, the blacker the better. If then your friend dies or commits suicide or becomes insane, it will not be for want of your sympathy.

## Did You Ever

Try Electric Bitters as a remedy for your troubles? If not, get a bottle now and get relief. This medicine has been found to be peculiarly adapted to the relief and cure of all Female Complaints, exerting a wonderful direct influence in giving strength and tone to the organs. If you have loss of appetite, Constipation, Headache, Fainting Spells, or are you Nervous, Sleepless, Excitable, Melancholy or troubled with Dizzy Spells, Electric Bitters is the medicine you need. Health and Strength are guaranteed by its use. Fifty cents and \$1.00 at E. T. Whitehead & Co's Drug Store.

## Where Tramps Come From.

Greenville Reflector.

The North is forever chiding the South with its indolence and lack of energy, but the Perry (Miss.) Headlight calls attention to another phase of the matter.

"People who are unable to make a living North come here and at once go to talking about the want of energy and get-up of the Southern people. That great energetic, thrifty and money making North sends an army of tramps South every year, but the South never sends a tramp to them. Go to our cities and ninety-nine out of every hundred of the beggars you see came here from the North. If the South is so far behind the procession, it is strange that these are facts, but they are. Of course, there are plenty of good people who come here from the North."

## BUCKLEN'S ARNICA SALVE.

The best salve in the world for Cuts Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by E. T. WHITEHEAD & CO.

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We are prepared to clip your horse or wash your buggy at the following prices:

Clipping Horse entire,.....\$2.50  
Clipping Mane and Legs,..... .50  
Washing Horse entire,..... .50  
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Good work guaranteed. PITTMAN & GRAY, Liverymen, 7 15 st. Scotland Neck, N. C.

## Remember This!

For the next thirty days, I will sell my entire stock of

Trimmed and Untrimmed Hats at a Sacrifice. Shapes usually sold for 50c., 75c., and \$1.00, now going at 25c., 40c., and 50c. Job Lot of Ribbons at cost and below. This lot includes

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Take Ayer's Pills, and you will sleep better and wake in better condition for the day's work. Ayer's Cathartic Pills have no equal as a pleasant and effective remedy for constipation, indigestion, sick headache, and all liver troubles. They are sugar-coated, and so perfectly prepared, that they cure without the annoyances experienced in the use of so many of the pills on the market. Ask your druggist for Ayer's Cathartic Pills. When other pills won't help you, Ayer's is

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